

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner maintains there are two groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. These groups have been identified as follows:

Group I: Claim 1, drawn to a method of joining a coupling element.

Group II: Claims 2-6, drawn to a tool for joining a coupling element.

Applicant elects the claims of Group I for purposes of examination and has cancelled claims 2-6 of Group II.

Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected, cancelled claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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RODMAN & RODMAN
10 Stewart Place – Suite 2CE
White Plains, New York 10603

/Charles Rodman/
Charles B. Rodman, Reg. No. 26,798
Attorney for Applicant

Telephone: (914) 949-7210

Facsimile: (914) 993-0668

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